

ABSTRACT

Include Figure 1

A method of providing call admission control which does not require using
5 MIDCOM protocol methods, Packetable protocols or COPS-RSVP
approaches is described which is simple to implement, cost-effective and
which is able to deal with particular situations such as conference calls.
10 Each link in a communications network over which it is required to perform
call admissions control is provided with a middlebox connected at each
end of that link such that admissions control can be carried out at one end
15 of the link. Call services are provided by Call Servers, each of which has
access to a database containing pre-specified information about all
middleboxes in that call server's realm. The database also has
information about maximum bandwidths for the link associated with each
middlebox. The call servers are used to keep a running tally of the
amount of VoIP call bandwidth associated with each middlebox on the
edge of a low-bandwidth link, and to accept or refuse calls on the basis of
the bandwidth information on a per-call basis.